



# INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Lori Torres, Inspector General

OFFICE: FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (FSSA)  
TITLE: FSSA MADISON STATE HOSPITAL FORGERY  
CASE ID: 2017-01-0010  
DATE: August 15, 2017

*Inspector General Staff Attorney Stephanie Mullaney, after an investigation by Special Agent Mark Mitchell, reports as follows:*

The Indiana General Assembly charged the Office of Inspector General (OIG) with addressing fraud, waste, abuse, and wrongdoing in the executive branch of state government. IC 4-2-7-2(b). The OIG also investigates criminal activity and ethics violations by state workers. IC 4-2-7-3.

On January 18, 2017, the Human Resources Director at the Madison State Hospital (MSH), a state psychiatric hospital operated through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction at the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), contacted the OIG regarding an employee (the Employee) that MSH recently terminated because the Employee submitted a sick note with a forged doctor's signature on it. Special Agent Mitchell conducted an investigation. Through the course of his investigation, Special Agent Mitchell interviewed various employees of MSH and a local healthcare facility (the Facility), and he obtained and reviewed emails, personnel records, and other documents.

Special Agent Mitchell learned that the Employee called in sick on January 6, 2017. At the time she called in, her supervisor requested that she bring in a doctor's note when she returned to work to excuse her absence. The Employee returned to work on January 10, 2017,

and she submitted a doctor's note purporting to be from a healthcare professional from the Facility. Special Agent Mitchell learned that the Deputy Human Resources Director later reviewed the note and noticed that it was not in the same format as other notes that MSH had received from the Facility in the past. Because the note was not in the Facility's normal format, the Deputy Human Resources Director contacted the Facility to verify the Employee's visit. The Deputy Human Resources Director learned that the Employee did not visit the Facility on that date and that the Facility did not provide the submitted note. The Deputy Human Resources Director shared this information with the Human Resources Director, who then questioned the Employee about the note. At that time, the Employee stated that someone else created the note for her to use. The Employee did not state who created the note for her. MSH terminated the Employee as a result.

Special Agent Mitchell visited the Facility and confirmed that the doctor's note submitted by the Employee did not match the Facility's format. He also learned that the Employee had never been a patient of the healthcare professional whose name appeared on the doctor's note submitted by the Employee. However, Special Agent Mitchell did learn that the Employee had visited another doctor at the Facility in the past and that this Doctor's office was right next to the healthcare professional whose name appeared on the note submitted by the Employee.

Special Agent Mitchell also took steps to determine whether this false doctor's note was an isolated incident or part of a larger pattern of activity. Special Agent Mitchell obtained information about the Employee's housemates and determined that neither the Employee nor the Employee's housemates had any criminal history beyond traffic citations. Special Agent Mitchell also searched information on the Employee and the Employee's housemates in the Indiana Scheduled Prescription Electronic Collection and Tracking program (INSPECT) to determine

whether the Employee or the Employee's housemates were receiving any prescriptions from the Facility. The search was negative for all individuals.

Special Agent Mitchell presented the information found in this investigation to the Jefferson County Prosecutor. The Prosecutor requested information on the loss to the State due to the Employee's absence on January 6, 2017. Special Agent Mitchell learned that the loss to the State for the Employee's missed day of work, the overtime that other MSH employees used to cover the Employee's shift, and the hour that the Employee was paid on the date of termination totaled \$318.33. With this information, the Prosecutor and the Employee entered into a precharging agreement wherein the Employee agreed to pay \$318.33 in restitution to MSH in exchange for the Prosecutor to forgo criminal charges. The Employee paid this amount to the Prosecutor on April 3, 2017, and the Prosecutor remitted the check to the State on June 23, 2017.

Because the Employee completed the terms of her pre-charging agreement and because the State has been made whole by the Employee's payment to the State, this case is closed. Should additional information be brought forward, the OIG will evaluate it for further action.

Dated: August 15, 2017

APPROVED BY:



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Lori Torres, Inspector General